

### REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 15, 2006. Claims 1-4, 7, 9-12, 15, and 25-39 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 9, 17, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35 and 37-39 are in independent form. Claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 17, 18, 25, 27, 29, 31-35 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Claims 3, 4 and 7 have been amended as to matters of form only, to ensure consistency of terminology, and/or correct claim dependency. No change in scope is either intended or believed effected by at least these latter changes. Claims 37-39 have been added to provide Applicant with a more complete scope of protection. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The specification has been amended to conform the Summary of Invention section to the amended claims.

Claims 1-4, 7, 9-12, 15, 17-20, 23 and 25-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Independent Claims 1, 9, 17, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33 and 35 have been carefully reviewed and amended as deemed necessary to ensure that they conform fully to the requirements of Section 112, first paragraph, with special attention to the points raised in paragraph 2 of the Office Action. Specifically, the “selection means” recitation in Claim 1 has been amended to read “selection means for selecting a second shared device managed by another information processing apparatus.” Similar amendments have been made to the other independent claims. It is believed that the rejection under Section 112, first paragraph, has been obviated, and its withdrawal is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 9, 17, 25, 27, 29 and 31-36 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The claims have been carefully reviewed and amended as deemed necessary to ensure that they conform fully to the requirements of Section 112, second paragraph, with special attention to the points raised in paragraph 3 of the Office Action. Specifically, the term “and/or” has been replaced with --or--. It is believed that the rejection under Section 112, second paragraph, has been obviated, and its withdrawal is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 7, 9-12, 15, 17-20, 23, and 25-36 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from U.S. Patent No. 6,154,787 (Urevig) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,466,973 (Jaffe).

As shown above, Applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 9, 17, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35 in terms that more clearly define what he regards as his invention. Applicant submits that these amended independent claims and newly added independent Claims 37-39, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 is directed to an information processing apparatus which manages a first shared device, including: (1) selection means for selecting a second shared device managed by another information processing apparatus; (2) determination means for determining which information processing apparatus manages the second shared device selected by the selection means; (3) reception means for receiving information of the second shared device selected by the selection means from the other information processing apparatus determined by the determination means, the received information including information of the second shared device

comprising an updated status and a connected condition; (4) recognition means for recognizing whether at least one of the first and second shared devices has been updated regarding its status, in accordance with the information received by the reception means; (5) renewal means for updating the information on the status or a connected condition of the second shared device in accordance with a recognition result made by the recognition means; and (6) display means for displaying the information on the status or the connected condition of the first shared device and the second shared device updated by the renewal means and the information of the first shared device on a same screen of the display means. The displayed information on the first shared device is updated and the information on a third shared device which is managed by the information processing apparatus but not selected by the selection means is not updated.

Among other notable features of Claim 1 are: (1) selection means for selecting a second shared device managed by another information processing apparatus; (2) determination means for determining which information processing apparatus manages the second shared device selected by the selection means; and (3) reception means for receiving information of the second shared device selected by the selection means from the other information processing apparatus determined by said determination means, the received information including information of the second shared device comprising an updated status and a connected condition; and (4) display means for displaying the information on the status or the connected condition of the first shared device and the second shared device updated by the renewal means and the information of the first shared device on a same screen of the display means, wherein the displayed information on the first shared device is updated and the information on a third shared

device which is managed by the information processing apparatus but not selected by the selection means is not updated.

Urevig relates to a method and apparatus for allocating peripheral devices between autonomous computer systems. The apparatus includes a cross system automation component including the Single Point Autoaction Message System (SP-AMS), which allows batch or demand runs on the host computer system to send messages to a Single Point Operations (SPO) Console, which monitors and controls multiple computer systems from a graphical display. Incoming resource requests sent to the SPO Console through the SP-AMS are recognized by the message automation facility, and a Shared Tape Drive Manager (STDM) is notified of the request for additional resource. The STDM then identifies available tape drives, and sends a message to the source computer system to re-assign the tape drive and, after the tape drive is unassigned by the source computer system, the STDM instructs the requesting host computer system to take assignment of the tape drive.

Urevig discusses grouping devices in accordance with their attributes (see Column 6, lines 26-44). However, Applicant has found nothing in Urevig that would teach or suggest “selection means for selecting a second shared device managed by another information processing apparatus,” “determination means for determining which information processing apparatus manages the second shared device selected by said selection means,” “reception means for receiving information of the second shared device selected by said selection means from the other information processing apparatus determined by said determination means, the received information including information of the second shared device comprising an updated status and a connected condition” or “display means for displaying the information on the status or the

connected condition of the first shared device and the second shared device updated by said renewal means and the information of the first shared device on a same screen of said display means, wherein the displayed information on the first shared device is updated and the information on a third shared device which is managed by said information processing apparatus but not selected by said selection means is not updated,” as recited in Claim 1.

The disclosure of Jaffe does not remedy the deficiencies of Urevig. Jaffe relates to a method and system for interfacing management user interfaces with networked computer and computer peripheral storage product lines. Jaffe discusses managed objects having multiple facets for linking with particular views of a graphical user interface. Jaffe further discusses that each facet is configured to access attributes, relationships and methods for a particular view of the managed objection. However, Applicant has found nothing in Jaffe that would teach or suggest “selection means for selecting a second shared device managed by another information processing apparatus,” “determination means for determining which information processing apparatus manages the second shared device selected by said selection means,” “reception means for receiving information of the second shared device selected by said selection means from the other information processing apparatus determined by said determination means, the received information including information of the second shared device comprising an updated status and a connected condition” or “display means for displaying the information on the status or the connected condition of the first shared device and the second shared device updated by said renewal means and the information of the first shared device on a same screen of said display means, wherein the displayed information on the first shared device is updated and the

information on a third shared device which is managed by said information processing apparatus but not selected by said selection means is not updated,” as recited in Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 1 is patentable over Urevig and Jaffe, whether considered separately or in any permissible combination (if any).

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant’s opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against Claim 1.

Independent Claims 9 and 17 are method and computer readable memory claims, respectively, corresponding to apparatus Claim 1, and are believed to be patentable over Urevig and Jaffe for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

Claim 25 is directed to an information processing apparatus which manages a first shared device, including: (1) selection means for selecting a second shared device managed by another information processing apparatus; (2) determination means for determining which information processing apparatus manages the second shared device selected by the selection means; (3) obtaining means for obtaining information on a status or a connected condition of the second shared device selected by the selection means from the other information processing apparatus determined by the determination means; (4) recognition means for recognizing whether at least one of the first and second shared devices has been updated regarding its status or connected condition, in accordance with the information obtained by the obtaining means; and (5) display means for displaying, on a display of the information processing apparatus, the information on the status or the connected condition of the second shared device, in accordance with a recognition result made by the recognition means, and information on a status or a

connected condition of the first shared device. The displayed information on the first shared device is updated and the information on a third shared device which is managed by the information processing apparatus but not selected by the selection means is not updated.

For substantially the same reasons as discussed above with respect to Claim 1, Applicant has found nothing in Urevig or Jaffe that would teach or suggest “selection means for selecting a second shared device managed by another information processing apparatus,” “determination means for determining which information processing apparatus manages the second shared device selected by said selection means,” “obtaining means for obtaining information on a status or a connected condition of the second shared device selected by said selection means from the other information processing apparatus determined by said determination means” or “display means for displaying, on a display of said information processing apparatus, the information on the status or the connected condition of the second shared device, in accordance with a recognition result made by said recognition means, and information on a status or a connected condition of the first shared device, wherein the displayed information on the first shared device is updated and the information on a third shared device which is managed by said information processing apparatus but not selected by said selection means is not updated,” as recited in Claim 25.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant’s opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against Claim 25.

Independent Claims 27 and 29 are method and computer readable memory claims, respectively, corresponding to apparatus Claim 25, and are believed to be patentable over Urevig and Jaffe for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 25.

Claim 31 is directed to an information processing apparatus that manages a first device, including: (1) designation means for designating a second device managed by another information processing apparatus; (2) determination means for determining which information processing apparatus manages the second device designated by the designation means; (3) obtaining means for obtaining first device information on the first device from the first device, and second device information on the second device designated by the designation means from the other information processing apparatus determined by the determination means; and (4) display means for displaying a status or a connected condition of the first and second devices based on the first device information and the second device information obtained by the obtaining means. The displayed information on the first device is updated and the information on a third device which is managed by the information processing apparatus but not designated by the designation means is not updated.

For substantially the same reasons as discussed above with respect to Claim 1, Applicant has found nothing in Urevig that would teach or suggest “designation means for designating a second device managed by another information processing apparatus,” “determination means for determining which information processing apparatus manages the second device designated by said designation means,” “obtaining means for obtaining first device information on the first device from the first device, and second device information on the second device designated by said designation means from the other information processing



apparatus determined by said determination means” or “display means for displaying a status or a connected condition of the first and second devices based on the first device information and the second device information obtained by said obtaining means, wherein the displayed information on the first device is updated and the information on a third device which is managed by said information processing apparatus but not designated by said designation means is not updated,” as recited in Claim 31.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant’s opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against Claim 31.

Independent Claims 33 and 35 are method and computer readable memory claims, respectively, corresponding to apparatus Claim 31, and are believed to be patentable over Urevig and Jaffe for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 31.

Claim 37 is directed to an information processing apparatus which manages first and second devices, including: (1) selection means for selecting a third device managed by another information processing apparatus; (2) determination means for determining which information processing apparatus manages the third device selected by the selection means; (3) reception means for receiving information of the third device selected by the selection means from the other information processing apparatus determined by the determination means; and (4) display means for displaying the information of the third device received by the reception means and information of the first and second devices managed by the information processing apparatus such that the information of the second device and the information of the first device is displayed in different conditions.

For substantially the same reasons as discussed above with respect to Claim 1, Applicant has found nothing in Urevig or Jaffe that would teach or suggest “selection means for selecting a third device managed by another information processing apparatus,” “determination means for determining which information processing apparatus manages the third device selected by said selection means,” “reception means for receiving information of the third device selected by said selection means from the other information processing apparatus determined by said determination means” or “display means for displaying the information of the third device received by said reception means and information of the first and second devices managed by said information processing apparatus such that the information of the second device and the information of the first device is displayed in different conditions,” as recited in Claim 37.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant’s opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against Claim 37.

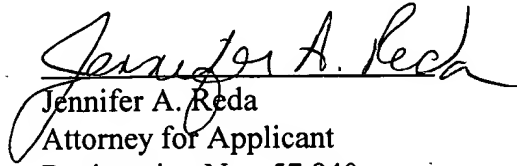
Independent Claims 38 and 39 are method and computer readable memory claims, respectively, corresponding to apparatus Claim 37, and are believed to be patentable over Urevig and Jaffe for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 37.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration or reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Early and favorable continued examination of the present application is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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